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W A R T I M E E X T E N S I O N

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Of special significance in this week's summary are reports on the farm labor program, job training, and protein feed conservation.

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SOUTH DAKOTA
April 1943

Farm labor.— A meeting to establish a farm-labor organization held in each county of State during first week of April. County war board and representatives of local groups interested in the program invited. Each meeting attended by a representative of State Extension office.

Each county selected county farm-labor representative and established county labor office. In all county agent counties, agents were made county labor representative. In nonagent counties, some war board member, other than chairman, selected.

At a State war board meeting April 29, county war board and representatives of local groups interested in farm labor authorized as county farm-labor committee.

Plans will be completed for State farm-labor program as authorized by the recent act of Congress. Director has designated the following persons to be responsible for various phases of program: W. E. Dittmer, as farm-labor leader; Milo Opdahl, for youth; and K. Lorette Nelson, for women.

Job-training instruction.— 10 members of State staff attended 4-day school on job instruction training conducted by Mr. Algren from Minneapolis office. This school was held second week of April.

The State staff, in teams of two, conducted 2-day schools for county and home agents in groups of approximately 10 during last week of April.

Program well accepted by agents; present indications are that enough experience will be gained this year to be of considerable assistance next year. Special emphasis given to training lambing hands at Belle Fourche meeting.

Summary No. 51
May 15, 1943

587-43

Sheep-shearing schools.-- Extension animal husbandman, began series of 15 two-day sheep-shearing schools the middle of month in cooperation with State director of high school agricultural instructors.

These schools proving extremely helpful to smaller sheep growers. A county had to have a minimum enrollment of 10 before a school could be scheduled. A professional shearer gives instruction assisted by Mr. McDonald. Of men taking training, rather high percentage are able to do satisfactory job of shearing and plan to shear flocks other than their own.

Custom combiners.-- A plan for recruiting and placing combiners from outside State presented by member of State war board at meeting called by Governor Sharpe. Governor also invited heads of the several State agencies to be involved and Federal agencies, such as ODT and OPA.

Cooperation from State agencies complete. Extension working with ODT and OPA to obtain simpler procedure regarding gas and tire rationing as it relates to combine movement from outside State.

Home food supply.-- Extension nutritionist attended 4-day job training school conducted by War Manpower Commission in preparation for conducting wartime training schools on various methods of food preservation.

4-H leader-training schools held in 12 counties, where nutritionist discussed food preservation work to be carried on by 4-H members.

TEXAS

May 1, 1943

Pressure-cooker rationing.-- State advisory committee drafted suggestions for making best use of Texas quota of rationed pressure cookers, including instruction on use and care of war-model cookers, to all persons and groups obtaining them.

Beef cattle.-- Conservation of protein supplement among all classes of livestock of increasing importance because more of it used during past winter than has been the practice for range-cattle production. Beef-cattle specialists preparing informational material on protein-supplement situation.

Income tax.-- Summary of extension income-tax program, ended on March 15, shows county agents during preceding 12 months held 859 meetings with over 13,000 farm people attending. Over 77,000 copies of extension leaflet "Income tax helps from your county agent," distributed to farm families during year. Estimated that 30,000 farmers visited offices of county agents for income-tax information. 347 news stories released, 21 radio broadcasts made on this subject. Service bureaus established in 28 counties, where farmers could have their income tax returns made out for a nominal fee.

4-H Clubs.-- Estimated that more than 52,000 girls now enrolled in 4-H Club work in Texas. Objective, producing to feed and clothe two fighters, has been stimulus to members.

Many 4-H Club boys produced and sold hogs in sufficient numbers to require making 1942 income-tax returns. In Van Zandt County, 24 boys produced 584 hogs, or equivalent of about 2 tons of pork per boy, surpassing goal of "feeding myself and one fighter," by producing a ton or more of pork. Sensational records also made by boys in other counties. Bobby Tipps of Hockley County topped list with 35,893 pounds of hogs, live weight.

Several thousand registered brood sows and boars are owned by 4-H Club boys. During May, 1,450 registered pigs will be placed with 4-H Club boys, ranging in age from 10 to 14, in 152 counties. A year hence these boys will own a sow with her first litter, and then will produce and feed out a litter of seven or eight pigs every six months.

Farm forestry.- Dry weather resulted in destructive fires in timber area of east Texas. This along with labor shortage has aggravated problem of pine production for lumber, pulpwood, poles, ties, and other uses.

Interest increasing among farmers to make better use of hardwoods in their timber plots. Marketing of such timber fits closely into sawmill and post treating programs of Extension Service. West Texas ranchmen expanding plantings of farmstead windbreaks.

Mohair grading.- Mohair grading and marketing program started in fall of 1939 under Extension auspices resulted in profit of about \$50,000 to growers, who took part last season. Around 1,250,000 pounds graded in fall of 1942, and about 900,000 in succeeding spring season.

Progress made in establishing standard grades, two of kid and four of grown hair. Grading made possible moving some of mohair from Texas on a scoured basis, thus using idle scouring equipment in State. Indirectly, grading program contributed to meat supply by encouraging growers to cull flocks closely and market culls without delay. Not unusual for some of better lots of mohair to bring a premium of 10 cents a pound over original bag.

Home food supply.- Extension game-management specialist emphasized farm fish-pond demonstrations at conferences with county agents in 12 counties. Production of domestic rabbits for meat recommended. Two publications on rabbits, one on farm fish ponds prepared.

Clothing conservation.- Restyling of women's clothing emphasized as part of conservation program. Sewing-machine clinics growing in popularity with realization that women will have to do more home sewing.

Negro activities.- Orientation meeting, sponsored by Texas USDA War Board, held at Prairie View State College to acquaint members of the Texas Negro farmers' war production committee with the program and services of all agricultural agencies serving Texas Negro farmers. Committee members chosen on basis of conspicuous contributions to agricultural production as well as leadership among progressive, successful farmers in their counties. One of main service of committee is to distribute general information among Negro farmers as to availability of services offered by governmental agricultural agencies, and to emphasize importance of such information in the war-production program.

VIRGINIA

May 1, 1943

Farm labor.-- Special farm-labor committees now organized in approximately 90% of counties, and agents asked to consider with committee advisability of setting-up labor exchanges. Several administrative meetings regarding labor problem and measures to help solve it were held during month. An understanding, pending legislation, worked out with State authorities in education, farm security, and employment service. A man to head State labor office selected, and temporary leaders from extension staff named to guide work relative to WIA and VEV. General educational work, largely through neighborhood leaders, stressed planning of work on farms to save labor and exchange machinery.

Neighborhood leaders.-- Additional growth in the system has brought total of persons active to 18,355 (April 1 report for first quarter), including professional workers, community chairmen, and both white and colored leaders--an increase of more than 1,000 since first of year. For the past month or more, leaders have given special attention to labor and plans for food conservation.

Crops.-- Through work with professional workers and general publicity, main emphasis placed on production of feed crops and oil crops. Farmers urged to plant more corn and supplementary pastures, and to take steps to produce quality hay.

Tomatoes.-- Vegetable specialists held 45 meetings with tomato growers and processors in April to discuss cultural practices and tomato-purchase program. Intentions to plant indicate increase of 8% over 1942. 1942 plantings 42% above that for 1941.

Victory Gardens.-- During March and April, 67 Victory Garden meetings held; attendance nearly 4,200. Extension office received more than 1,100 requests this month for garden information.

Milk.-- Dairy specialists, in conjunction with agronomists, stressing feed crops, pasture, and hay in efforts to ward off feed shortages. Four new DHIA supervisors started in April and 1,000 more cows on test in March compared with March 1942; total now over 2,300.

Poultry.-- Specialists made 80 farm visits in 30 counties in April, held 16 4-H and 12 adult meetings, conducted tour to National Research Center, and worked in special conferences on feed situation, poultry and egg grades, and ceiling prices.

Food conservation.-- All Virginia home economists have united in State-wide training program for rural and city workers in interest of food conservation. Aim is to teach uniform, up-to-date methods without overlapping of effort. 20 workshops held for county workers in 100 counties. Nearly 400 professional workers, including 35 men, in these workshops. These workers to hold community workshops for training leaders. Similar workshops held in 9 cities in cooperation with OCD; trained 256 professional workers and leaders, who in turn will train sector and block leaders, who will reach city families.

Farm home food supply.-- Reports incomplete. County example--1,129 white and 642 Negro families in Campbell County signed up to produce all their own vegetables. More than 75% will produce own milk and poultry needs; 60% will produce pork. Families indicate greatest need of information on conservation and storage.

4-H Club work.- Reports from 90% of white and 50% of Negro club agents show an increase in 4-H enrollment due to mobilization of over 7,500. State-wide program to raise funds to buy an ambulance had nearly reached goal on last report 3 weeks ago, and, no doubt, has now passed it. Reports from all over State show club members signing up in large numbers for summer "war projects" and filling labor gaps by gardening, milking cows, caring for poultry.

Household conservation activities.- Home demonstration specialists report widespread interest in all forms of conservation: In clothing, storage of woollens, making work clothes, making over dresses and coats and men's suits into other garments. In household equipment, repair clinics for sewing machines and electrical appliances. Training in conservation of house furnishing given in April to 197 leaders representing 122 clubs. Leaders in turn will carry demonstrations to members.

WYOMING
April 30, 1943

Labor.- All agents have started their labor recruiting campaign. They have visited high schools and started a system of registration of high school boys and girls willing to work on farms or ranches. Already action being obtained. At Buffalo, Johnson County, 70 high school boys enlisted to help in lambing. They began work last week. This arrangement, of course, made with school administration, so boys would not lose their credits.

In Johnson County 166 oil workers from the Midwest field have signed up to work on ranches on their day's off and vacation period. Workers have 2 days off each week and 2 weeks vacation during the year. Local post of American Legion did good service in getting these men to enroll for work.

Labor training.- Series of regional meetings held during April, attended by county extension agents and State specialists.

Meetings were in the nature of training schools for those who might be called upon to train farmers in methods of handling inexperienced farm labor. Training was done by specialists employed by State Department of Education.

Following these labor-training conferences, agents began through farm bureau and other community meetings to pass training on to farm people.

Victory Gardens.- Agents in all counties organizing committees to promote Victory Gardens. Not only in the rural districts but in the small towns, agents emphasizing importance of gardens in food-production campaign. Never before has interest in gardens been so great, and it is evident hundreds who never before planted gardens will do so this year.

Specialists in nutrition, horticulture, and 4-H Clubs aggressively promoting this work.

Home food supply.- To share latest information on garden planning and planting, and on storing, canning, freezing, and drying of foods, extension nutritionist and horticulturist conducted training schools in cooperation with vocational home economics supervisor. Schools open to home economics and agricultural teachers, F.S.A. and Extension workers, officers of county nutrition committees, project leaders, and officers of home demonstration clubs.

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